First Amendment- “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances”. The First Amendment in my words the Government shall make no law that can limit or cut down any American’s free speech. Free speech to me is that it is not free because people can’t say whatever they feel like saying when they want to say it without getting some type of consequence from it. Like a person can’t go around saying fighting words

The courts define free speech in a different it seems that they will side with the party that is being sued. Example Tinker: a group of students who opposed the Vietnam War decided to wear black armbands to protest. When the administration at their school found out they suspended the students who didn’t take off the bands. . The parents of the students sued the school and the case ended up in Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said that school had all rights to tell the students to take off their armbands and suspend them from school. Example Hazelwood: in a journalism class the students had a newspaper that they created. In this particular paper there was an article about teen pregnancy and the affect on teens when their parents get a divorce. The principle of the school deleted these two articles, because he claimed that names of the pregnant teens were not good enough and the parent that was being bashed for getting a divorce was not able to defend himself, along with articles that were featured on the pages with the prohibited articles. The students were very upset and sued the school because that went against freedom of press and speech. The Supreme court sided with the principal saying that he had all rights to delete content from the school newspaper if it didn’t have anything to do with the school curriculum.

Freedom of speech has its limits and restrictions to some things that are said by different people and then it is not for others. For example in schools, freedom of speech is more limited because students can’t say something that they would say outside in school. Students can’t be in school cursing all day and not expect to not get in trouble, or they can’t make lewd comments in front of a school official and not expect to get suspended. Hank Williams made a statement on national television comparing President Obama to Adolf Hitler. This did not get a positive response from some people and he was punished by ESPN because they took his song off of Monday Night Football.